

## **REMARKS**

### **Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102**

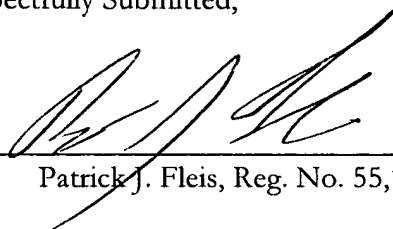
Claims 1-3 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hood et al., U.S. Pat. No. 4,816,017 (“Hood”). Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 5 to state that the adaptor securely matingly connected the handpiece and, also, the dental tip. See page 10, lines 7-15. No new matter has been added by this amendment. The decoupling sleeve 50 of the Hood patent does not show or contemplate any arrangement that fittingly engages a dental handpiece and does not show an arrangement that fittingly engages a dental tip but, rather, a sleeve 50 that is loosely attached to a sleeve 27. The purpose of the sleeve 50 is to dampen effects of the ultrasonic device so that bubbles are not formed during eye surgery (Col. 2, lines 58-62), which is accomplished by forming a loose connection and not a fluid tight connection. As described in Hood, “the end 58, remote from the collar 56, remains free to float slightly in a radial direction.” (Col. 5, lines 27-31). As such, Hood does not have the securely mating connection of the present invention. The secure mating connection of the present invention is beneficial in that it prevents fluid from leaking or dripping as it passes from the dental handpiece through the adaptor to the dental tip. Accordingly, Applicant believes this arrangement patently distinguishes the present invention from Hood and respectfully requests that independent claims 1 and 5, along with dependent claims 2 and 3 be passed to allowance.

Claims 1 and 3-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Feine, U.S. Pat. No. 6,146,968. Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 5 to state that the adaptor is of “unitary, one-piece construction”. No new matter has been added by this amendment. Feine describes and claims a three-part ultrasonic insert that is used within a handpiece. Feine does not show or describe a one-piece adaptor that securely mates and is connected to a handpiece and a dental tip. Figure 4 of Feine does not show an adaptor as claimed, but a portion of the claimed insert. The one-piece construction of the present invention provides an adaptor that is easy to attach and connect to both the dental handpiece and the dental tip to provide a solid fluid pathway. Applicant believes the amendment to independent claims 1 and 5 patently distinguishes the present invention from Feine and respectfully requests allowance of claims 1 and 5, along with claims 3 and 4 that depend from 1.

Applicant also has added new independent claim 9 to the application to further distinguish the patentable features of the present invention. No new matter has been added by this amendment. Specifically, Applicant has called out for the adaptor to be disposable. The cited prior art does not show or suggest such an adaptor and allowance of claim 9 is respectfully requested.

Applicant believes the currently presented claims patentably distinguish the present invention from the prior art. That is, the prior art does not show a one-piece dental adaptor that is securely matingly connected to both the dental handpiece and the dental tip. Also, the prior art does not show such a described device that is also disposable, as recited in claim 9. Applicant respectfully requests allowance of amended claims 1 and 5, original claim 2-4, inclusive, and newly presented claim 9.

Respectfully Submitted,

By   
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